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25 June 1974

REVITALIZING THE USIB WATCH MECHANISM

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25 June 1974

REVITALIZING THE USIB WATCH MECHANISM

Executive Summary

There is an urgent need, perceived within and outside the intelligence community, to revamp the USIB Watch Mechanism.

The attached report represents the suggestions of intelligence officers who have participated in recent years in the activities of the present Watch Committee.

Their basic conclusions are that there should be:

1. a USIB community Watch machinery to continue to serve as a discipline to prod existing community offices in their handling of the priority objective on intelligence concerning possible enemy attack.

2. a revitalization of the USIB community's Watch machinery especially to enable it to operate efficiently in the

3. an updating and a narrowing of the priorities of the Watch structure to concentrate on the more direct threats to

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the US, especially from the USSR and China.

4. a small Strategic Warning Committee Staff, which would have a new stress on flexibility and on turning out timely, continuous reporting on warning intelligence situations, and would have a capability for research on warning intelligence methodology.

5. a new central location for the staff, to place it at CIA or DIA, where it can be near the analytical support and communications that it must share.

6. a Strategic Warning Committee to review broader, longer range indicators of hostilities regularly, and to hold special meetings in cases of more imminent threat.

* * * *

It is recommended that:

1. USIB be asked to approve the report in principle,
2. that a small, ad hoc working group be established under USIB to sort out such details as the staffing, location, mechanics of producing reports, etc., and
3. that the DCI issue a new DCID 1/5 (a proposed draft is also attached) to cover this activity.

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